

## Craig, Sondra

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**From:** Mary Ness <maryness106@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 5, 2024 1:06 PM  
**To:** ZZ Council Members  
**Cc:** Earl Wutt; Mary Ness  
**Subject:** Item 24-1075

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To: La Crosse City Council Members  
Re: Opening up Houska Park to camping and Homeless 24-1075

Coming up with solutions for homeless is very complex. Your task to explore options is a challenge.

We are property owners on Alexander St. just off the bike/walking trail near Green Island Park. We have the following concerns and questions regarding opening up the large area of Houska Park for camping.

- Houska Park is beautiful prime river property meant for usage and enjoyment for all and opening up camping makes it's usage for a select group of homeless.
- What set up and monitoring plan will be in place *prior* to opening up the park to ensure safe/appropriate use and addresses sanitation issues? What will be different than past usage?
  - Will there be designated campsites set up and a limited number of people using the site?
  - Might there be registration of campers as in other campgrounds?
  - Limited length of stay?
- Does opening a large area to homeless encourage more homeless coming into our community?
- Does housing in a large area bring a population that influences and increases drug usage and additional illegal and unsafe behaviors?
- Past camping in Houska made it an impossibility to use the park for any other purpose and a "challenge" to sometimes walk past it.
- Past camping there made it a "challenge" to use the bike/walking path, dog park, and even spilled over into day usage of Green Island Park.

Sincerely,  
Mary Ness and Earl Wutt